9031662

The People's Korea

No. 1,236 EVERY SATURDAY APRIL 6, 1985 Per Copy Price: ₩250 (US$1.00)

FAO Ranks DPRK as World No. 1 Rice Producer

By Li Sang Chil
PK Staff Reporter

Rice yield per hectare in the DPRK marked the world's highest level according to the 1983 FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization) yearbook, vol. 37.

The yearbook reported the DPRK's rice yield per hectare reached 6.34 tons, compared with the world average of 3.04 tons. **(See related article on page 3)**

North Korean per hectare rice output stood at 6 tons for three straight years since 1981.

According to FAO's investigation, some Korean cooperative farms recorded a remarkable level of over 10 tons in rice production and an experimental rice paddy 13 tons.

The reporter tried to piece together fragmentary newspaper reports and a lot of comments from Korean and foreign observers. Follows a picture which has emerged of the DPRK's agriculture:

In 1983, a long spell of abnormal weather was a world-wide phenomenon, damaging crops badly. The northern half of the DPRK was adversely affected particularly during the farming season except for the mid-southern area of South Hamgyong Province – little rainfall and drought.

However, the farming area survived the abnormal weather thanks to the unique Juche farming method laid down by President Kim Il Sung.

Governmental efforts were made to put farming on a scientific and technical basis; farmers were told to stick to the principle of planting the right crop on the right soil in the right time. To this end, a soil examination of the cultivated land was conducted throughout the country, in parallel with an all-round study of agricultural climate.

The green revolution was vigorously pushed ahead and many new varieties of high-yielding crops which can be planted thickly in order to apply the plant-by-plant farming principle produced.

Agronomical and technical measures were taken to increase land fertility and carefully tend the crops plant-by-plant or cluster-by-cluster.

An FAO investigation delegation, when it visited the country in September, 1980, called on the DPRK government to offer technical aid in rice production.

The DPRK was called a model of agriculture.

North Korea was long considered unfit for agriculture, while south Korea was a rice granary.

The DPRK exports a considerable amount of farm products including rice as it has completely attained self-sufficiency in food – a marvellous fact.

Mountains account for about 80 percent of north Korean territory with cultivated land forming a small proportion – only two million *chongbo* (One *chongbo* equals 9,917.36 square metres) including orchards and mulberry fields.

Today, 127 countries such as Japan and south Korea import food in large quantities.

According to FAO's estimate, north Korean rice export totals 500,000 tons a year.

Last year, Pyongyang sent 50,000 sok (about 7,500 tons) of rice and other supplies as relief goods to south Korean flood victims.

What figure heavily in the DPRK's rice yield are extensive levels of mechanization, chemicalization and irrigation.

Local Assemblies Adopt Decisions to Better People's Living

The first sessions of the provincial, city and county people's assemblies held in the DPRK recently adopted decisions to improve the people's living.

The sessions summed up the fulfilment of tasks put forward by Mr. Kim Jong Il in his Feb. 16, 1984 speech entitled "On further Improving the People's Lives," and discussed ways and means to accomplish the tasks.

The Workers' Party of Korea led by General Secretary Kim Il Sung and Secretary Kim Jong Il puts the betterment of the people's living on the front burner.

Mr. Kim Jong Il stated as follows: "To constantly better the people's living is the supreme principle governing our party in its activity and a very important work for giving full play to the genuine superiority of our socialist system and its great vitality." **(The statement made by Mr. Kim Jong Il when he went round the Light Industrial Goods Exhibition in August last year.)**

The Dec. 4-10, 1984 10th plenary meeting of the 6th Central Committee of the WPK also emphasized that the people's living should be made more cultural and affluent with big efforts continuously directed to the light industrial revolution and consumer goods production.

Reporters at the first sessions said that the people's power bodies have achieved great successes in the struggle to better the people's lives including the work to increase agricultural production and effect revolutions in the light industry and the public service in the last one year.

They stressed that they would radically improve the people's lives by enhancing the function and role of the people's power this year, a significant year celebrating the 40th anniversaries of the national liberation and party founding.

Chairmen, vice chairmen, secretaries and members of the provincial, city and county people's committees were elected at the sessions.

S-S Cooperation Urged As Guinean, Burundi Dels. Visit Korea

DPRK Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam stressed the need for South-South cooperation in banquet speeches to welcome government delegations from Guinea and Burundi.

The DPRK is an active contributor to South-South cooperation.

Kim Yong Nam said:

"The government and people of our Republic will make all efforts to realize South-South cooperation together with the non-aligned and developing countries and resolutely struggle for the building of a new independent and prosperous world, free from exploitation and oppression and all manner of domination and interference." **(At a banquet for the government delegation of the Republic of Guinea)**

"Your visit to our country this time will contribute to further expanding and developing the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Burundi, deepening understanding between the two peoples and strengthening cooperation and exchange among the non-aligned and developing countries." **(At a banquet for the government delegation of the Republic of Burundi)**

"As a dignified non-aligned country the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will make positive efforts in the future to establish a new world economic order, strengthen economic and technical cooperation and exchange with developing countries and realize South-South cooperation." **(At a banquet for the government delegation of the Republic of Burundi)**

The delegations of the two countries were led by Facine Toure, member of the Military Committee of National Redemption of Guinea and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and by Laurent Nzeyimana, Minister of External Relations and Cooperation. Both delegations arrived in Pyongyang on March 25 upon the invitation of the DPRK government.

The DPRK government arranged banquets in honor of the delegations on March 25 and 26 at the Okryu Restaurant, Korea's first-class restaurant.

In his banquet speech Guinean foreign minister Facine Toure said that Korea continuously renders much cooperation politically and economically to Guinea.

"We will make every effort to develop the cooperative relations with your country," he stressed.

Burundi foreign minister Laurent Nzeyimana stated:

"We are pleased to note that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea shares the same opinion with us in the international arena, in the struggle for South-South cooperation and world peace in particular."

President Kim Il Sung on March 27 received the two delegations respectively.

Continued Reconnaissance by SR-71s

The U.S. infiltrated an "SR-71" high-speed, high-altitude reconnaissance plane deep into the sky above the territorial waters of the DPRK east of Kosong, letting it fly up to the sky above the coastal waters of Sonbong county, North Hamgyong Province, from 11 hours 5 minutes to 12 minutes on March 22 to commit espionage against the northern half of Korea.

Such aerial espionage of SR-71s has been further intensified these days when the U.S. and south Korea are staging the "Team Spirit 85" joint military rehearsal in full scale after massing huge armed forces in the area near the Military Demarcation Line and in the east and west seas of the DPRK.

Such acts of aerial espionage against the northern half of Korea numbered 9 in March alone.

British Parliamentarians, WPC Denounce Team Spirit 85

Fifty labour members of British Parliament on March 14 submitted to the Parliament a resolution opposing the Team Spirit 85 joint military exercises of the Americans and south Koreans.

The resolution said:

The House of Commons considers this rehearsal to be one for obstructing the peaceful reunification of Korea and scuttling dialogue between north and south.

"The House of Commons appeals to the British government to support the tripartite talks proposal for the peaceful reunification of Korea."

Meanwhile, a declaration adopted at the meeting of a presidential committee of the World Peace Council which was held in Moscow from March 22 to 25 noted that U.S. imperialists' nuclear arms buildup and provocative Team Spirit 85 military exercises in south Korea are aggravating the situation in the Far East.

It called upon the world people to vigorously wage a joint struggle against the U.S.'s reckless aggressive and belligerent moves and arms race.

Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam Stresses S-S Cooperation

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea arranged a banquet at the Okryu Restaurant on Mar. 25 in honor of the government delegation of the Republic of Guinea on an official goodwill visit to Korea.

The banquet was addressed by Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam and head of the delegation Facine Toure, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Speaking at the banquet, Kim Yong Nam said:

We follow with deep interest steps taken in friendly Guinea to ensure political stability and achieve the prosperity of the country and sincerely hope all work will go well in your country.

We wholeheartedly wish the Guinean government and people under the leadership of respected President Lansana Conte great success in their endeavours to attain self-sufficiency in food by developing agriculture, build a solid foundation of the national economy, achieve the complete liberation and unity of Africa and strengthen and develop the non-aligned movement.

The successes achieved by the Korean and Guinean peoples in their struggle to build a new society and create a new life correspond to promoting the common cause of the non-aligned and developing countries.

South Korean puppets, faithful lackeys of imperialism, unscrupulously murdered people in various countries of Africa to earn unanimous curse and denunciation of the world public.

We express full support to a legitimate punitive step taken by the Guinean government against the crime committed by the south Korean puppets.

One of the important tasks confronting the developing and non-aligned countries is to free themselves from the exploitation and plunder by the imperialists and achieve economic independence and emancipate the people from starvation, poverty and diseases.

The government and people of our Republic will make all efforts to realise South-South cooperation together with the non-aligned and developing countries and resolutely struggle for the building of a new independent and prosperous world, free from exploitation and oppression and all manner of domination and interference.

Speaking next, Facine Toure said:

Korea continuously renders much cooperation politically and economically to Guinea.

We will make every effort to develop the cooperative relations with your country.

I convey greetings of the Guinean people to respected President Kim Il Sung who is devoting his all to the promotion of the Korean people's well-being.

I also convey greetings of the Guinean people to the dear leader Comrade Kim Jong Il who is conducting energetic activities for the promotion of the Korean people's well-being.

We will always stand foursquare behind the Korean people for the peaceful reunification of the country.

The United States and its stooges can never break the will of the Korean people.

Korea will certainly be reunified into one.

Korea Makes Positive Efforts to Establish New World Economic Order: DPRK Foreign Minister

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea arranged a banquet at the Okryu Restaurant on March 26 for the government delegation of the Republic of Burundi on a goodwill visit to Korea.

The banquet was addressed by Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam and head of the delegation Laurent Nzeyimana, Minister of External Relations and Cooperation of Burundi.

Referring to the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Burundi, Kim Yong Nam said:

The flower of friendship planted and tended personally by the great leader of our people Comrade Kim Il Sung and His Excellency respected President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza is in full bloom in the lands of our two countries, giving off fragrance all over the world.

Today the friendly Burundi people are striving to achieve the stability of the country and national unity and develop agriculture for self-sufficiency in food and lay the foundation of an independent national economy in pursuance of an independent policy, overcoming all obstacles and difficulties lying in the way of advance under the correct leadership of His Excellency respected President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza.

Your visit to our country this time will contribute to further expanding and developing the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Burundi, deepening understanding between the two peoples and strengthening cooperation and solidarity among the non-aligned and developing countries.

The Korean people are now working new miracles and innovations on all fronts of socialist construction by displaying creative ingenuity and mass heroism, full of national pride and honor of making revolution, holding dear Comrade Kim Jong Il in high esteem at the head of the Korean revolution.

Victory and glory are always in store for the Korean people upholding the wise guidance of the glorious Party Centre, and bright is the future of our country.

As a dignified non-aligned country the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will make positive efforts in the future to establish a new world economic order, strengthen economic and technical cooperation and exchange with developing countries and realise South-South cooperation.

Laurent Nzeyimana said:

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a country which has inherited the glorious and immortal revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

Therefore, your country is achieving shining successes on all fronts of socialist construction.

These tremendous successes could be achieved because the Workers' Party of Korea has armed the popular masses with the Juche idea under the wise guidance of the great leader President Kim Il Sung and the dear leader His Excellency Kim Jong Il.

I reassure you of our steadfast stand firmly supporting the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo advanced by the great leader President Kim Il Sung at the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

We are pleased to note that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea shares the same opinion with us in the international arena, in the struggle for South-South cooperation and world peace in particular.

40 Years Since Liberation

Korea in Its Youthful Prime (6)

Korea Joins the Long Life Countries of World

(Continued from the previous issue)

Everything Is Free of Charge

It is said that the life expectancy at birth or mortality is a barometer of a nation's medical level.

The life expectancy at birth of the Korean people lengthened 36 years compared with that in the pre-liberation days to reach 74 years. In 1976, that of men reached 70 years and that of women 76 years. Korea joined the ranks of "long life" countries.

At present the average life span of men is over 70 years in 16 countries and that of women is over 75 years in 22 countries. It is a trend common to the world that women live longer than men.

On the other hand, the mortality is 4.4 per 1,000 of the population. This shows that it has decreased to one fifth of the pre-liberation level in Korea.

What is behind this great success is the system of free medical care. Korea has already enforced it since January 1953, regardless of sex, age, residence, workshop, and quality and quantity of labor, for all the people, including workers, farmers, soldiers and working intellectuals. No expenses are needed for medical examination and treatment, medical check-ups, operations, drugs or doctor's visits to patients. Moreover,the state bears all the medical expenses including food for in-patients, medical treatment expenses and even traveling expenses to sanatoriums for recuperation. Besides, people do not pay any expenses for health examination, health consultation, preventive inoculation, childbirth or for a regular health check-up or pregnant women, or expenses for correctional institutions for the physically handicapped and dental treatment. Such a complete free medical care is rarely known even in socialist countries.

The medical service network covers all corners of the country so that all people can enjoy this system fully.

In Japan, there are areas where there are no doctors and where people can not receive medical care properly. Contrary to this, in Korea all clinics in farming districts became hospitals in 1974. Medical institutions are growing substantially year by year.

There are not only countryside hospitals (with an internal department, pediatrics, an obstetrical section and a mouth section) but also juvenile medical service centers including medical treatment rooms for nurseries and kindergartens, juvenile wards and children's hospitals. The medical service networks for women stretch down to the obstetrical sections of ri-hospitals via obstetrics and gynecolobgy departments in hospitals on various levels. There is a medical service network of Oriental medicine, consisting of hospitals specializing in Oriental hospital, Oriental medicine (Chinese medicine) departments in all sorts of hospitals and Oriental sections in *ri*-hospitals.

Furthermore, there are all sorts of service networks formed of all kinds of special sanatoriums including mineral spring sanatoriums and seasonal sanatoriums in all places.

In addition, there are medical service networks for the mouth and emergency medical service networks, too. The country is covered with four-fold and five-fold specialist medical service networks according to different department.

Thanks to this expansion of medical facilities, there are 24 doctors and 130 beds per 10,000 of population.

Preventive Medicine

Another characteristic of medical care in Korea is preventive medicine.

The whole country is taking hygiene and preventive measures against epidemics and developing preventive medical examination, in order to protect and promote the health of the working people. The incidence of diseases has remarkably decreased by taking thorough hygiene and preventive measures against epidemics and developing preventive medical examination, coupled by a consistent health care system from birth and babyhood. Moreover, infectious diseases such as smallpox, cholera, recurrent fever, malaria, Japanese encephalitis and the measles, have been eliminated.

There is a "section doctor system" to look after the health of local inhabitants. This is the system to maintain residents' health and to detect diseases in their early stages. Under this system, doctors do not wait for patients to come but go out to the districts under their charge voluntarily. It is the doctors' major role not to prevent people from falling ill in districts under their charge. Each doctor has the clinical charts of inhabitants there and makes house calls regularly. Their charts move together with the residents' cards (copies of their family registers) when they change their dwelling places or workshops. Thanks to this system, doctors can get know the past histories of the patients at a glance.

In a word, all habitants have "their own doctors." Under this system, residents can have children's doctors till 15 years old and then are transferred to internists. They are guaranteed for medical care through their life wherever they work or live.

Abundant Green

It is necessary for people's health to create healthy surroundings for then. The DPRK capital Pyongyang has 48 square meters of park and green area per capita. This is remarkably high as compared with that in other major cities– 45.7 square meters in Washington, 19.2 in New York, 30.4 in London, 3.06 in Tokyo.

Sufficient measures are taken against environmental pollution from the standpoint of giving priorities to human beings. The hygiene inspection Board, a permanent organ of the government, must approve any plan to build a factory or an enterprise. The hygiene inspectors make a detailed epidemiological investigation geforehand and strictly check anti-smoke and drainage systems of factories. Environmental pollution is extremely limited.

(To be continued)

Agriculture of DPRK FAO Ceres Editor Analyzes

FAO ranks the DPRK as the world's number one rice producer in terms of per hectare yield. FAO Ceres editor Peter Hendry made a detached factual analysis of north Korean farming performance. Follow excerpts from a 1983 issue of Ceres:

A quarter of a century has passed since China's agriculture was collectivized and that of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) completed a similar process called cooperativization. Some scholars have pointed out parallel between these two cases, suggesting that the DPRK programme followed the China model.

There are not, of course, all the basic differences between the agricultural sectors of China and the DPRK. They should, however, indicate the futility of attempting any direct and definitive comparison of the two systems on the basis of present evidence. This article attempts to sketch out some of the reasoning that appears to underline China's decision to introduce a radically new element to the rural economy – the production responsibility system – and the DPRK's evident determination to stay on its previously chosen course. The article has relied, to some degree, on previously published material (these sources are given in the footnotes). To a greater extent, however, it is based on impressions gained from visits to a number of Chinese communes and DPRK cooperatives in May 1983 and from interviews with responsible cadres at cooperative and commune level as well as within the relevant ministries.

To begin with the DPRK experience, present policies can easily be justified by past performance. Material progress in the countryside is palpable. A remarkable network of dams, pumping stations, reservoirs and water channels feeds an irrigation system that covers at least 60 percent of arable land. Since 1946 rice yields have more than tripled, reaching an average of 7.6 tons/ha while maize yields are reported at 6.3 tons/ha, nine times the 1946 level. Total cereal produciton is approaching 10 million tons annually, the target set for the seven-year plan ending next year (1984). Mechanization of many farming operations has reached a high level, almost entirely on the basis of domestically produced machines. New housing and public buildings are a common sight in the villages.

Articles of faith. But beyond this visual impact, some of the standard indicators that would provide more detailed and precise quantification of the sector's performance are not always readily available. Statistics abound: percentage increases achieved in crop yields, the total volume of water in irrigation reservoirs, the number of tractors per 100 ha. Figures dealing with costs and incomes, however, are elusive.

The DPRK and China have followed sharply diverging paths in agriculture and rural development

DPRK officials describe the nation's agricultural development process as a three-pronged revolution: ideological, technical and cultural. For the uninitiated, some grasp of the last two elements may make it easier to understand the first.

The technical revolution is very much in place. It covers four areas: irrigation, mechanization, electrification and chemicalization. The irrigation system is said to be complete. The network includes 1,700 reservoirs impounding nearly three billion cubic metres of water, 23,700 pumping stations, 94,700 wells and 40,000 km of waterways. A total of 1.2 million ha are irrigated.

Familiar figures. Many farm operations, especially in the plains area, have been mechanized. The present seven-year plan set a target of 10 tractors per 100 ha by 1984. Mechanized rice transplanters are now widely used, but are not completely satisfactory in meeting the meticulous requirements for rice transplanting in the DPRK. That is, there can be no "misses" in any row of transplanted seedlings. Thus one still sees in the paddies the familiar stooping figures, but in most cases they are making up for the omissions of the mechanized system of planting. Similar difficulties are being encountered with a machine developed to transplant corn seedlings that are started in humus pots to advance the growing season by some 15 days. Tractors and trucks also handle much farm transport, although bullocks are still seen hauling carts, as well as in the paddies, and, especially, in the more mountainous areas.

Application of chemical fertilizers is now approaching the second seven-year plan target of two tons per hectare.

Introduction of these modern techniques to the agricultural sector of the DPRK has been guided by an elaborate hierarchy of professionally trained engineers and technicians. Each cooperative farm, which normally comprises about 1,000 ha and 400 to 500 households, has an average of between 55 and 60 such personnel on its technical staff. On some cooperatives, such as the model one at Chongsan-*ri*, technical personnel exceed 200 and account for more than 20 percent of the total work force. These personnel are engaged by, and responsible to, the cooperative management committee, which is elected by the general membership.

The affairs of individual cooperatives, in turn, are guided by a Cooperative Farm Management Committee established in each of the nation's 200 counties.

Parallel structures. At the next level of the hierarchy is a Provincial Rural Economy Committee established in each of 13 provinces. As is also the case with the County Cooperative Farm Management Committees, senior personnel at the provincial level are appointed by the Central Agricultural Commission.

This structure for management of the agricultural sector has been in operation since 1962, when it replaced the agricultural sections that had formerly existed within the Provincial and County People's Committee, that is to say, the general administrative hierarchy of the county.

According to O Hyo Sob, a lecturer in the agricultural management section of the University of the National Economy, the change was necessary because of "the rapidly changing reality of agricultural development in our country." Following completion of the cooperativization process in 1958, many small cooperatives were merged into larger farms with the *ri*, or village, as the central unit. As agricultural technology developed, the old system was unable to satisfy the requirements for "higher guidance."

Opportunities for advancement. Distribution of cooperative earnings to members is calculated on the basis of grades that have been established for various kind of work. There are four such grades for ordinary members and a total of six for engineers and technicians. Heads of work teams and subwork teams receive a supplement based on the overall performance of the unit they direct. A top grade engineer's work would normally earn 70 to 100 percent more than would the lowest grade of work by cooperative members. While official data on average earnings of cooperative members were not available, comments from a number of sources both at the cooperative and government levels indicated a range of 2,400 to 3,000 *won* annually (US$1,200-1,500).

Opportunities for individual advancement from the level of ordinary cooperative membership to the ranks of the technocracy appear best for bright young people accepted for enrolment in one of the provincial agricultural colleges and, eventually, at the University of the National Economy. In the first instance, according to Kim Chong Hoon, Director of Wonsan Agricultural University, college entrants come from three main streams: first, those coming directly from completion of secondary school education (free and compulsory in the DPRK) who have been selected for "excellence in study and organization life" by the League of Socialist Working Youth, an affiliate of the Korean Workers' Party; second, those who have been engaged in the agricultural production force for some time following their secondary school graduation and who have been chosen by the cooperative assemblies as deserving further education: third, those who have been identified during their military service as suitable candidates for university. Enrolment in the four-year agricultural management course at the University of the National Economy is reserved for "young and promising" functionaries of the state agricultural enterprises and the County Farm Management Committees, according to a University spokesman.

EDITORIAL

Dangerous Nuclear War Scenario

A Japanese opposition party member disclosed in a recent Diet session that a nuclear war scenario had been studied at Ground Staff College. "The territorial defense operation (June, 1959)", a text used by Ground Staff College, is an operational plan hypothesizing the use of nuclear weapons, regarding the Soviet Union and north Korea as "potential enemies."

Faced with the disclosure of the nuclear war scenario, Japanese authorities shift to a defiant attitude, saying that the text is "a thing of the past." They say that the Japanese Self-Defence Force (SDF) does not study any operations in an environment where nuclear weapons pose a danger.

However, there is much speculation that the SDF has studied operational plans hypothesizing a nuclear war.

"Overall Strategy 1965" mapped out by the SDF clearly states that the SDF should be prepared to conduct operations in an environment where nuclear weapons are used. It also stresses the need for the help of nuclear force. A map used during U.S.-Japan joint operations in Hokkaido, October 1983 showed areas affected by nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) weapons. And it was learned recently that a nuclear shelter has been build inside the Omia Chemical School.

These developments show that Tokyo follows Washington's nuclear strategy and is making preparations for combat operations against the Soviet Union and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Japan has become "an unsinkable aircraft carrier" to which U. S. warships with nuclear capability pay frequent visits. It plays a very important part in U.S.-south Korea combined military exercise Team Spirit 85 whose scenario hypothesizes unclear war in Korea.

Japan's nuclear war scenario violates its stated policy on nuclear weapons and poses a serious threat to the peace of Northeast Asia.

The people of Asia will carefully watch Tokyo's moves.

The fields of cooperative farms in Korea are crisscrossed with irrigation channels brimming with life-giving water.

Dangerous Operation to Invade North: Rodong Sinmun

Rodong Sinmun March 26 brands the "Team Spirit 85" joint military rehearsal as a dangerous attack operation – a "preliminary war" and a "test nuclear war" aimed at invading the north, to all intents and purposes.

A signed article of the paper touches upon the large-scale three-dimensional attack exercises including "landing operation," "river-crossing operation" and "aerial attack operation" being staged by the U.S. and the south Koreans in the "Team Spirit 85" with the north as the striking target.

He says:

The dangerous and criminal nature of the "Team Spirit 85" finds salient manifestation, above all, in the composition of the military strength and their equipment involved in the rehearsal.

They are all for attack and their composition is also thoroughly offensive.

They are staging large-scale attack exercises involving vast forces and military equipment more than enough to carry out a war. This itself is dangerous enough and is a provocative act that can be committed only by those who have got crazy with a bid for a war of aggression.

Another danger of the joint exercises is its being a three-dimensional attack operation exercise simulating their invasion of the north.

The U.S. and the south Korean junta have chosen the coastal areas of south Korea similar to that of the north as the landing points, taking us as the "imaginary enemy".

They also designated areas near the military demarcation line as sites of attack exercises and stage mainly exercises to be used to the terrain and climatic conditions of the north such as "mountain warfare exercise," "field mobile exercise" and "night warfare exercise."

All these prove that the U.S. schemes to complete, through the current rehearsal, an operation to surprise the north any time, according to a "plan for a Korean War" they have already worked out.

The Korean people are vigilantly watching the reckless military manoeuvrings of the U.S. and the Chon junta.

The U.S. must give up their fantastic design for northward invasion, stop at once the aggressive war rehearsal and withdraw from south Korea.

If the U.S. and the south Korean junta continue along the road of war, they will suffer a woeful destruciton.

"Defence Tax" Rises Up

The Chon Du Hwan junta decided to extend the term for the effectuation of the "defence tax" which is to expire this year five more years from 1986.

The "defence tax" was cooked up for a period of five years from 1976 to 1980 under the name of "building up the defence capacity" and already extended once the term of its effectuation.

Until last year after their application of the "defence tax" 7,529.8 billion won was wrested from people.

Seoul now plans to collect 1,636.3 billion won, more than six times the figure of 1976, this year under the name of "defence."

The "defence tax" wrested from people accounts for 40.5 percent of the south Korean budgetary expenditure for "defence purposes."

"Subsidiary Placement Plan"

The south Korean authorities recently worked out a "subsidiary placement plan for collegians" and decided to temporarily hire more than 163,800 students at such organizations of the "Home Ministry" and "Defence Minis-

(Continued on page 5)

— Team Spirit 85 —

Provocative Military Drills Continuously Staged

Chemical Warfare Exercise

"Clouds of crimson smoke billowed into the air and explosions shook the ground as Osan Air Base twice came under simulated air attack waged as a part of Team Spirit 85 recently," the south Korean English-language paper Korea Times said on March 27, referring to a chemical warfare drill conducted by Washington and Seoul.

Airmen immediately donned chemical warfare protective gear at the first sound of the attack siren, and flightline personnel dived for cover as aircraft from the 51st Tactical Fighter Wing soared over the base on a mock bombing run, according to the paper.

Tear gas was used during the simulated attack. Disaster response forces, including base hospital and fire officials, arrived quickly at "damaged hangars and buildings, extinguishing mock fires and aiding the "injured," the Korea Times said.

"Everyone taking part in the chemical defense portion of Team Spirit wore chemical defensive gear consisting of a protective mask with hood, a protective suit, and rubber gloves," the paper added.

"Emergency Runway Take-Off and Landing Exercise"

The U.S. and south Korea staged an "emergency runway take-off and landing exercise" on March 25 and 26 as part of the Team Spirit 85 joint military rehearsal, according to a radio report from Seoul.

They staged this exercise on the Honam Express Highway and other roads on the east coast, banning all trafic during the military training.

"City Defence" Drill

The Chon Du Hwan junta staged one more war exercise allegedly for "City Defence" in Changwon, South Kyongsang Province, for two days from March 22 when the "Team Spirit 85" joint military exercises were at their height, according to a radio report from Seoul.

They mobilized numerous troops, the "Homeland Defence Reserve Forces" and civilian vehicles and inhabitants there.

U.S. and south Korean Marine amphibious forces storm out of an amphibious landing assault ship during the simulated landing operation, the highlight of Team Spirit 85, staged on March 20 in the eastern coastal region under the support of helicopters, other aircraft and ships of the U.S. Seventh Fleet. (Korea Times photo)

American soldiers try to fix a gun on a hill in the central region to conduct live-fire exercises while a serviceman views the simulated enemy stronghold during the aggressive Team Spirit 85 war game. (Korea Times photo)

S. Korea's "CDC" Reinforced

The Chon Du Hwan junta is hard at work to reinforce the "Civilian Defence Corps," a civilian military organization, with more people enlisted into it.

A "period of report" was set for all those to be enlisted for the reorganization of the "CDC" for 1985 and, while working round the clock to grasp them from the beginning of the year.

Seoul threatened that prison terms and fines would be imposed upon those who fail to "report within the set period".

Seoul decided to stage the "CDC" training of rural population, which had been conducted with the administrative district as a unit, with such "zones of life" as the primary school district or natural village as a unit from this year.

Under this step all the rural inhabitants scattered in more than 80 counties, 160 townships and *myon* and 4,340 villages throughout south Korea will be mobilized in the training of the "CDC".

As students strongly demanded the abolition of the "Student Homeland Defence Corps", a fascist military organization formed at universities and colleges, and the formation of autonomous student organizations there, the Chon junta advertized that the SHDC" would be dissolved from the new school year, while scheming to enlist students in the "CDC".

Almost every day the "training of the Civilian Defence Corps" is being staged in an atmosphere of a real war throughout south Korea.

From March 4 to 7 a military rehearsal dubbed "Shield 85" was staged in Seoul with the mobilization of south Korean army units, police forces, "Homeland Defence Reserve Forces" and even "Civilian Defence Corps".

And the Chon junta is working hard to reinforce the "CDC", crying about the "activation of the operation of CDC", while frequently "inspecting" "formation of the CDC and control of resources," "establishment of a report system and mobilization posture among the population" and "maintenance of establishments."

Washington to Grant Mil. Sales Loan to Seoul

The United States plans to grant to the south Korean junta of Gen. Chon Du Hwan military sales loan to the tune of $220 million in the fiscal 1986, according to a radio report from Seoul.

A bill on this was reportedly carried at the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs of the U.S. House Foreign Relations Committee on March 20.

(Continued from page 4)

try" as "Crime Prevention Corps" and "business assistants," according to a radio report from Seoul.

Many collegians in south Korea, unable to bear heavy burdens of school expenses, are now seeking jobs in various parts to work their way through school.

The south Korean paper Chungang Ilbo carried on Nov. 12, 1984 an editorial entitled "An Age of Job Shortage", describing a serious state of the south Korean economy. Analyzing the cause of job shortage attributing it to no temporary cause due to inflation, the editorial finds its real reason in a structural imbalance of employment in south Korea.

The paper said, "In case of college graduates, out of 67,000 job seekers only 6.7% or some 2,500 are expected to get jobs, while out of 140,000 applicants only 32% or some 44,000 high school graduates are estimated to have jobs".

Under such conditions the Chon junta put up the unctuous signboard of "subsidiary placement plan" to win the favour of students and use them as a tool for suppression by employing them as servants of the "government" organs.

S. Korean Clandestine Document Calls for Democracy

The March issue of the Japanese monthly magazine "Sekai" carried "For What We Should Rise in the Movement for Democracy", a clandestine document which is circulated widely among south Korean students these days.

The document says in part:

The student movement should achieve unity with the masses who voluntarily turned out to win civil rights, spiritual unity with ordinary people who are subjected to hard life and unity for political democratization with entrepreneurs who are suffering owing to the comprador military "regime" and American and Japanese "Zaibatsu."

The student movement should adhere to the principle of embracing all forces in the movement for democracy except marionettes of the military and power.

— Article of S. Korean Monthly Magazine —

40 Years' Unrequited Love (6)

By Han Wan Sang

(Continued from the previous issue)

Mr. R., I still vividly remember present Greek Prime Minister Papandreou's remarks made in the popular TV program "Meet the Press" in the U.S. in 1960.

Then he was a professor at a prestigious university.

In a furious tone he unsparingly criticized the U.S. administration of its double-faced character, the way it treats its own people in a democratic way, but other nations in an entirely different way – in an imperialist or hegemonist way.

It seems to me that the relations between Washington and Athens are not so favorable after he became Greek Prime Minister.

If the U.S. is proud of its position as the standard-bearer of free countries, naturally it must make endeavours to promote freedom in the Third World countries.

I cannot understand why America directly or indirectly supports anti-democratic elite forces who are ruthlessly oppressing freedom in the Third World.

Time to Bid Farewell to 40 Years' Unrequited Love

Mr. R., my complaints may have been too long.

It is 40 years since the liberation as we ushered in the New Year.

The babies born in the years around the time of liberation have grown to be independent leaders in our society.

However, if the people who were born in 1945 truly want to be independent leaders they have to thoroughly get rid of the dirt from which we are not yet freed and which is shamelessly rooted in our country.

First of all, we must have an independent spirit.

Of course, institutional independence is more urgent.

As this point is stressed by many people, I would like to urge emancipation from 40 years' one-sided love, first of all.

Mr. R., we have nursed our unrequited love for 40 years, but now is the time for us to use discretion.

Now is the time for us to establish friendly relations with the U.S. on an equal footing.

We should stand alongside the giant powers as a proud country, with a pride that the small can be more beautiful than the big, and with a belief that Yellow can be more beautiful than White.

To have one-sided love is immature but to enjoy receiving that kind of love is worse than that.

Therefore, my opinion does not derive from an anti-American sentiment, but I only wish to establish a mature relationship between our nation and the U.S., by extricating ourselves from the present plight, and by developing our relations into relations between independent countries.

Mr. R., the great powers seem to have changed their tactics recently.

Now, they do not just receive unrequited love from small countries, and look down upon them, as they did in the past.

They are trying to promote their economic interests by praising our country saying that it has joined the ranks of Newly Industrialized Countries.

When I read a speech by an ex-American ambassador in Seoul, I found that he says that the U.S. market is disturbed by the import of only 250,000 TV sets made in south Korea.

It seems to me that America is trying to promote protectionism by raising our country to the status of a NIC in order to justify it.

Our ruling circle has been singing its own praises as a NIC in the past few years, but this seems to have boomeranged.

Nothing can be more absurd!

That serves the stupid people right!

Mr. R., now we will have to bid farewell to 40 years' unrequited love and advance forward proudly and carefully, even though the giant powers pretend to care for us.

If we are to sublimate the shame which our nation experienced in the past, we should not forget the historical fact that we have played in the hands of the giant powers.

We should also remember the fact that there have been internal forces who have sided with these giant powers.

Mr. R., when I stress the need not to forget the past, I do not mean that we should nurse our grudge against them.

I mean that we should strengthen our will not to repeat the same tragic past by remembering the tragic past.

This means that even if we forgive those who subjected us to humiliation in the past, we must not forget their brutalities.

Because forgiveness does not come from oblivion.

True forgiveness comes only from vivid and painful memory.

Mr. R., though we can bear the past humiliation and forgive those who subjected us to it, our unrequited love is not a problem of forgiveness.

It's a problem of disgrace.

It is a height of shame!

Because it is we that committed an error in the first place.

Now is the time for us to clean up our miserable, burning shame which we have borne in the last 40 years.

I wish the year 1985 will be a true year for our nation to free itself from vacillation and get rid of its 40 years' unrequited love.

I also wish you success in your work.

I must be in good health.

I need your pray more.

Please pray for me as the age of forty, as I am still too unsettled in my mind at this age to submit to Heaven's will.

(Concluded)

* * *

***Editor's Note:** *Mr. Han Wan Sang who had been virtually expelled to the United States by the junta of Gen. Chon Du Hwan for 3 years since 1981, was reinstated as professor of Seoul National University last year.*

***Correction:** *Name of Mr. Han should have spelled as Wan Sang, not Wan San in the last serial.*

Crackdown Upon Students

A trial was held at the southern branch of the Seoul district criminal court on March 23 and five students of Seoul National University were sentenced to five years' penal servitude, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The court had persecuted for months the five SNU students including Li Jong U, former Chairman of its General Student Council, because in September last year they locked up and punished a secret agent who had sneaked into the university.

At a trial held on March 14 at the Seoul district criminal court demanded prison terms up to two years for 8 students of Korea University including the former Chairman of its General Student Council who had been involved in the sit-in strike in the "Democratic Justice Party" building.

Earlier, on March 12 and 13, the court demanded prison terms up to two years for 7 students of Sung Kyun Kwan University and 5 students of Yonsei University.

Meanwhile, the suppressive mechanism of the Chon junta referred 21 students of the College of International Affairs in Seoul to "summary trial" to be penalized.

The Chon junta "disciplined" 1,020 students of Korea University and expelled over 70 on February 27, and on February 18 disciplined over 1,900 students of Seoul National University and expelled 210, according to south Korean papers.

Fifty eight students of Sung Kyun Kwan University were also expelled from the university.

Crafty Trick of Chon Junta

The south Korean "Minister of Justice" on March 25 at a press conference, insulting the students' just action calling for democratization, raved that such an action would be "severely dealt with", according to a radio report from Seoul.

He also babbled that students would "be released in case they reflect" on their acts.

Observers say that this is another crafty trick to bar the anti-"government" action of the students by the double-dealing tactics of threat and blackmail.

"Labour Relations Act" Null and Void, Says WWC Chairman

Chairman Pang Yong Sok of the South Korean Workers Welfare Council in his letter sent to the "National Assembly" in demand of the revision of the "Labour Relations Act" said: "I declare that the present 'Labour Relations Act' fabricated under the 'martial law' in December 1980 is null and void."

The letter serially carried in Minjok Sibo, a newspaper of Korean residents in Japan under the influence of the South Korean Resident Association in Japan.

It reads in part:

The present "Labour Relations Act" bans the trade unions' participation in politics and provides for banning interference of a third party to block solidarity between the labour movement and conscientious forces.

The present "act" must be revised in order to put an end to acts regarding it as a sole business to make the workers remain silent as a target of the rule, not as the master of the country.

Noting that the present "Labour Relations Act" totally deprives the workers of the right of unity, the right of collective bargaining and the right of collective action, the three rights of labour, and suppresses the labour movement of workers, the letter stresses that for the purpose of realizing the democratization of south Korean society the "act" must be revised.

The letter emphasizes:

Only when the workers accounting for an overwhelming majority of the population are given a legitimate position as the supreme ruler and their basic human rights are guaranteed, can democracy be realized and the divided country be reunified.

The History of Korean Residents in Japan And Chongryun

1 A Brief History of Korean Residents in Japan

(Continued from the previous issue)

2) Distribution of Korean Population in Japan

See Table II for distribution of the Korean population in Japan. A commercial city Osaka and its adjacent areas are most heavily populated by the Koreans.

This distribution tells well the socio-economic status of the resident Koreans in Japan.

Eighty percent of the Koreans are either traders or industrialists. Few are employed by Japanese concerns.

3) Koreans by Native Province

Ninenty-eight percent of the resident Koreans in Japan hail from south Korea, 65 percent of which figure are from North and South Kyongsang provinces.

4) Treatment of Koreans in Japan

Today nearly 40 years after the Second World War ended, the resident Koreans are subject to all sorts of racial and social discrimination in Japan.

Still found strong in Japanese society is a tendency to despise and belittle the Koreans without any justifiable reason at all.

The resident Koreans in Japan are loyal to all the legal duties imposed by the Japanese authorities, including tax payment, but their right of employment is severely limited and their access to social security benefits including national pensions, too, is restricted to a large extent.

A particular mention must be made of the fact that administrative discrimination continues such as fingerprinting under the Alien Registration Law and Koreans are much handicapped in educational and cultural rights as well.

Table II Area by Area Korean Population (As of Jun. 30, 1983)

Prefecture	Population
Osaka	186,225
Tokyo	74,902
Hyogo	70,743
Aichi	56,710
Kyoto	47,136
Kanagawa	29,931
Fukuoka	27,331
Hiroshima	17,018
Yamaguchi	14,904
Chiba	11,473

With the addition of those living in other areas, the resident in Japan total 667,348.

2 The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan

1. Formation

The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (hereinafter, Chongryun) was formed on May 25, 1955 as the only organization of overseas nationals of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The formation of Chongryun was an historic even which led to a fundamental change in the lives of Korean nationals resident in Japan.

Those Korean organizations which had existed before Chongryun's appearance failed to properly reflect the will and demands of resident Koreans and function as a true organization of the DPRK citizens as they lacked a right guiding thought and an independent action platform.

With Chongryun came a good opportunity for resident Korean nationals in Japan to perform splendidly their noble mission assumed before the country and the nation and join a worthwhile cause of safeguarding world peace, holding as their sole guide the juche idea fathered by President Kim Il Sung.

The last thirty years have witnessed Chongryun doing what it could in order to rally resident Koreans closely behind the DPRK Government, defend their democratic national rights, promote the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and deepen friendship and goodwill with the world's peace-loving peoples including the Japanese, with all the disadvantages it had in an alien country.

Chongryun maintains throughout all its activities a firm principle of non-interference in Japan's domestic affairs and advocates mutual respect, reciprocity and equality. (To be continued)

Table III

Native Province	Population	Native Province	Population
S. Kyongsang	246,638	Pyongyang	217
N. Kyongsang	158,683	N. Pyongan	1,134
S. Cholla	61,423	S. Hamgyong	2,173
Cheju	101,378	N. Hamgyong	700
N. Cholla	12,064	Hwanghae	1,284
S. Chungchong	13,053	S. Hwanghae	102
N. Chungchong	11,459	N. Hwanghae	85
Kyonggi	5,410	Ryanggang	2
Seoul	9,462	Jagang	18
Kangwon	4,971	Unknown	6,683
S. Pyongan	1,867	Total	638,806

Blueprint of new Chongryun Head Office which will be completed in Sept. 1986

New Films

Many new films were released this year in Korea.

The Korean film studio which produced last year part 1 "Ordeal" of the feature film "Trial Blazers" released its part 2 "Spring comes round to Paekdu Plateau".

Part 1 deals with the struggle of members of the Workers' Party of Korea and working people who reclaim Paekdu Plateau, once barren land, upholding the far-reaching nature-remaking plan of the President Kim Il Sung.

Part 2 is an impressive picture of the persistent struggle of party members and working people who turn Paekdu Plateau into an agricultural production base and a paradise of the people, smashing the vicious schemes of class enemies of all hues.

The film studio produced the feature film "Noble Life" this year.

This film is a sequel of the widely known feature films "A Single Heart" and "The Pledge Made that Day" depicting the heroic struggle of 10 party members of Rakwon in the period of the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953) and in the postwar period.

(Continued on page 7)

— Korean Musical Instruments —

(3) TANSO

Tanso is made up of 2 words. "Tan" means short and "so" is a generic term for wind instruments.

Tanso is a most popular Korean wind instrument together with other so, Tongso (Korean Flute).

Formerly, it was made of bamboo, but now it is made of synthetic resin as a result of several innovations.

The sound is clear and beautiful with its emotional, penetrating timbre. The sound is wide and soft in the law range; bright and beautiful in the mid-range; penetrating in the high range.

Tanso came to be played after the middle of the 15th century, and it was especially favoured by woodcutters for this clear sound.

Originally, it had 4 holes in the front, and one hole in the back, and rendition was confined to heptachord compositions.

Therefore, in the Li dynasty, Tanso was played in combination with several Tansoes with a different pitch, according to musical compositions.

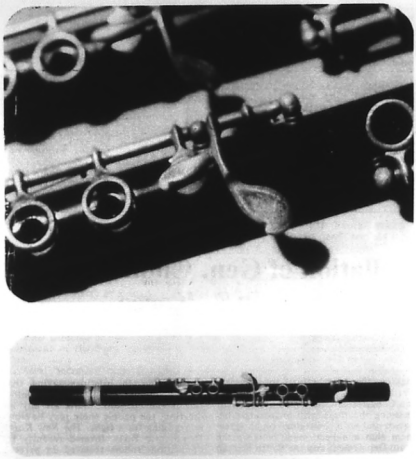
With not only 3 holes in the front body, but also a half tone device and a key for correct sound added, it came to be able to play any musical compositions.

Tanso is a basic instrument for the high range in the composition of traditional wind and string instruments, and is mostly used to play melodies in rendition.

It permits various ways of rendition ranging from trill, producing neighbouring sounds alternately in succession, adding grace, richness and brightness to the melodies played by other instrument, giving unique sound to traditional wind and string instrument.

Tanso is played in solos, duets, as an accompaniment to vocal performances, and orchestras.

The treble Tanso is made to increase the sound range of Tanso and is somewhat smaller and one octave higher than Tanso.



Tanso

(Continued from page 6)

The film "Noble Life" impressively shows the indomitable spirit of the Korean working class boundlessly loyal to the Workers' Party of Korea and the leader through the struggle of the 10 party members of Rakwon in manufacturing the first large-size excavator in the DPRK in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle in the period of the great upswing of socialism.

The Korean February 8 Film Studio produced the feature film "True Colors of 'Ruby'". This film vividly shows how our public security men reliably guarding the lives and properties of people expose and smash the "Ruby" spyring which viciously schemes to impair the ever rising external prestige of our country and create confusion in the people's lives.

Meanwhile, the Korean Documentary Film Studio produced the documentary film "Successors".

The film impressively tells that the revolutionary cause of Juche that was pioneered in the flames of the anti-Japanese struggle is being brilliantly carried forward generation after generation, showing the worthwhile and happy life of students, and the struggle of graduates, of the revolutionary schools including the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School.

Besides, the documentary film "Speed Campaign Youth Shock Brigade" vividly showing with historical material the struggle of the speed campaign youth shock brigaders in the socialist construction and the documentary film "Road of Love to School" impressively showing deep love and benevolence of the party associated with the roads to school for the school children in mountainous villages and islands.

The Korean Science and Education Film Studio created the children's film "A Boy who Defeats Thieves."

Sports and Culture

22nd Nat'l. Sports Contests

Ice hockey and skiing competitions of the 22nd National Sports Contests among sports club members which opened on January 15 closed.

Participants in the competitions gave a good account of themselves as they had strengthened day-to-day training, upholding the party's intention on intensifying winter sports.

At the ice hockey competitions held at the ice rink the Kanggye City Sports Club team came first.

In the skiing competitions held in Samjiyon, Samjiyon County Sports Club members came first respectively in the alpine and distance skiing competitions.

The competitions showed the rapid development of the sports technique of sports club members.

New Books

A number of new books have of late been brought out by the Science and Encyclopedia Publishing House.

The newly published books include many books of the medical domain including "Utmost Sincerity for Man" (3) dealing with the positive examples of selfless devotion of medical workers for the promotion of the health of the working people.

"Medical Biochemistry" helps solve more statisfactorily the problems arising in clinical practice on the basis of the latest successes achieved in biochemical researches.

"Method of Mineral Water Analysis" is helpful to raising the efficaciousness of mineral water therapy and finding a correct therapeutic tactics.

Also seeing the light are such lingual books as "Studies of General Linguistics" and "Popular Dictionary of Chinese Characters" and "Korean Proverbs" containing some 8,000 old sayings.

The new books also include "Characteristics of Modern Imperialism and its General Crisis" (5), "Studies of Modern Korean Paintings" and many books of other domains.

Wrestling

Korean wrestlers Ma Jung Nam, O Yong Gwon and Hong Choi Ho bagged gold medals respectively in the 48, 52 and 90 kg categories at the International Wrestling Tournament of Friendly Armies held from March 15 to 17 in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

O Gyong Hun finished the runner-up in the 52 kg category.

International Tournaments

Korean teams came back home on March 22 after participating in the International Women's Table Tennis Tournament held in Bulgaria and the International Judo Tournaments held in Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

The table tennis players finished the winner in team event and Rim Jong Hwa took gold in singles and Rim Jong Hwa and Li Yong Suk in doubles.

Hwang Jae Gil bagged silver in category over 95kg at the International Judo Tournament held in Czechoslovakia and bronze in category over 95kg and in the all categories event at the International Judo Tournament held in Hungary.

Korean teams returned home on March 22 from the International Weightlifting Tournament for "Friendship Cup" held in the Soviet Union and the International Wrestling Tournament of Friendly Armies held in Mongolia.

Korean Paintings "High Mountain and Long River" by Cho Jong Yo, 1981

S. Korean Economy Hurt By Export Drop: AWJ

The Asian Wall Street Journal reported on March 28 that south Korea's export, the main engine of Seoul's growth, is declining.

Here is the story written by James R. Schiffman, the AWJ's Seoul correspondent:

South Korea's export machine has slipped into reverse.

Overseas sales in the first two months of the year plunged 15% from a year earlier to $3.43 billion, the Economic Planning Board says. Orders by letter of credit, an indicator of exports several months ahead, dropped 10% to $2.97 billion.

Government economists see signs of improvement this month. But a senior trade official says he doesn't expect exports – the main engine of Korea's growth – to register a year-on-year increase before April.

To make matters worse, exports are booming in Taiwan, one of South Korea's main competitors. Official statistics show that Taiwan's overseas sales in the first two months rose 14% to $4.84 billion.

What's wrong with South Korea? Planners pin some blame on the country's reliance on its large conglomerates for economic development, at the expense of small and medium-sized concerns.

"Taiwan is better at exporting footwear and other light-industrial products because of its industrial structure," says a Korean government economist, in reference to the efficient, small-scale manufacturers that dominate Taiwan's economy. "In times like these, they have the relative strength. In better times, Koreans can be better."

Litany of Explanations

Korean officials and traders offer a litany of other explanations for this year's poor performance:

– Exports were unusually strong during the first two months of 1984, largely due to the recovery in the U.S. As a result, year-to-year comparisons are "nonsense," says the senior trade official.

Normally – this year included – exports are slow in the early months, due to seasonal factors and to the way the government measures success. Healthy full-year export figures generally translate into government favors, including loans, permission to expand and other concessions. Trading houses thus work feverishly to book exports before the end of each calendar year.

In addition, companies often ship goods to overseas subsidiaries at the end of each year and record them as exports. Sales from those inventories in the following year don't show up in export totals.

– Exports of big-ticket items such as steel and ships are way down. The decline in steel sales has resulted in part from the recent negotiations between Seoul and Washington on restraining exports to the U.S., says Park Un-Suh of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. American importers rushed to buy Korean steel late last year before the negotiations were finished, building up inventories that have deterred new orders.

– U.S. consumers are spending less on clothing, which has restricted Korean textile exports. (This factor, though, should affect competitors such as Taiwan equally.) Furthermore, an antidumping ruling has made South Korean color televisions uncompetitive in the U.S. market. And the strong U.S. dollar has crippled exports to Europe.

Concern Over Imports

Economic planners remain upbeat, even though, as a senior trade official notes, exports in the first two months fell $400 million to $600 million below government projections. "I'm not concerned about the current situation at all," says the senior government economist. "There's no reason why we can't meet our export targets" for the year.

However, officials do express concern over imports. According to the planning board, imports in the first two months declined only 3%, much less than the drop in exports. That's led to a widening trade deficit and, in turn, a deeper-than-planned current-account deficit. (The current account is a country's broadest measure of what it sells overseas compared with what it buys. It includes trade in goods and services, as well as items such as interest payments on debt.)

South Korea's current-account deficit totaled $595 million for the first two months, wider than the $399 million shortfall in the same period of a year earlier. The growing gap presents a problem for economic planners, who want to reduce and eventually eliminate the deficit to ease South Korea's debt burden. The government's official target for this year's current-account deficit is $500 million to $700 million.

Although government officials say the goal is still reachable, others aren't so sanguine. "My very personal view is that the $500 million figure isn't realistic," says a bank economist. "I think $1 billion is more realistic."

The government, meanwhile, has instituted a broad range of policies aimed at stimulating exports and holding back imports. Export financing is being increased by 185 billion won ($220 million), and programs are being implemented to replace imports with Korean-made products, the planning board says.

The government is promoting domestic manufacturing of machinery, much of which currently is imported. Jin Nyum, assistant minister of the planning board, says the government will make available $1.2 billion in financing for purchases of Korean-made machinery.

Korean machinery makers currently are troubled by conflicting government policies. In many cases, customs duties are exorbitant on parts needed to build machines, which makes local manufacturing uneconomic. At the same time, the government has squeezed domestic credit, making it tough for small machine makers to get bank loans.

The government is introducing other, mostly symbolic, initiatives to cut imports.

"This is a time for austerity," the bank economist says. "This isn't a time for consuming." Adds Mr. Jin of the planning board: "The people's wants are growing faster than the national economy can afford."

Mr. Jin concedes that the government's policy measures "aren't enough. We still have structural problems."

U.S. Magazine Urges Cancellation of Gen. Chon's U.S. Visit and Recall of U.S. Envoy in S. Korea

The U.S. magazine Nation in its February 23, 1985 editorial, urged, "The April visit of General Chun, who seized power with American help in 1979, should be called off." It also said, "And since Walker evidently regards himself as Korean ambassador to the United States, he should be recalled to Washington." Here is the Feb. 23 editorial of the magazine entitled "Kim's Homecoming:"

It is deplorable that an attempt to protect the life and political rights of Kim Dae Jung should have degenerated into a row over whether Patt Derian's hair was pulled, Robert White's arm twisted or Ed Feighan's Congressional dignity impugned. We are sure that none of the Americans who offered themselves as an escort to Kim on his homeward journey were after headlines. We know from firsthand accounts that none of them planned or hoped for a confrontation. (Nobody with even a glancing knowledge of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency would care to take on that nasty clone.) But George Shultz and his Ambassador to Seoul, Richard Walker, have chosen to lie about the incident and to try a little victim blaming. So the record needs to be straightened.

Some weeks ago the Reagan Administration announced that it was quite concerned that Kim Dae Jung's return be "trouble free." What it meant was that it hoped South Korean dictator Gen. Chun Doo Hwan's April visit to the United States would be trouble free. Nevertheless, the latter concern was a valuable quid pro quo for a guarantee of Kim's personal safety. American Embassy officials were to meet the party at the ramp. Cars were to be on hand to take Kim and his friends to his home. Courtesies were to be observed. And in a gracious gesture at the last minute, the South Korean authorities announced that they would not imprison their country's leading democrat.

This polite bargain with a ruthless regime had about the same credibility as a Presidential certification of progress on human rights in El Salvador. Members of the embassy staff were forcibly kept from the terminal area. The press was hustled down a moving staircase by plainclothes thugs, and the entourage of Americans was crudely set upon. Kim and his wife were dragged away by a third squad.

At this point, an ambassador is supposed to know his duty. But Richard Walker is made of different stuff. He is, after all, one of that shabby handful of American envoys who signed a letter endorsing the re-election of Jesse Helms last fall. He values the good opinion of General Chun above all else. Without making the least effort to interview Derian, his former colleague White or the Congressman, he issued a statement charging the three with provocative behavior and with "reneging" on an agreement that had been made between the State Department and the South Korean government. He did not accompany the escorts on their visit to the Foreign Ministry, thus unmistakably signaling the level of his concern. And he did not, until squeezed to the limit, protest the indignities visited on his own staff at the airport.

The State Department now says it will wait for the results of the South Korean investigation of the imbroglio before taking further action. The wait will be a protracted one, given that the South Korean government did not mount an investigation, did not take depositions from any member of the American delegation and issued an insulting statement describing them as "effeminate" and "cowardly." A spokesman for General Chun accused Kim, who is 59 and walks with a cane as a result of an assassination attempt, of attacking the phalanx of K.C.I.A. men who awaited him. Kim is detained in his home without hope of a trial. He was not allowed to vote in last week's rigged elections; all other genuine opposition leaders had been barred from participation until shortly before the vote. The U.S. Embassy has spent a lot of time in briefings saying that the general has stabilized the country. But if the election results are any indication, the people there may be slowly readying for a fight. The New Korea Democratic Party formed recently by opposition leaders received 29 percent of the vote.

The brouhaha touched off by Kim's return will have been worthwhile if it focuses continued press and Congressional attention on his predicament and makes his treatment the acid test for relations with Seoul. But certain minimal steps must be taken in the meantime. The April visit of General Chun, who seized power with American help in 1979, should be called off. This country is not obliged to welcome a man who roughs up American Congressmen. And since Walker evidently regards himself as Korean Ambassador to the United States, he should be recalled to Washington. Above all, it must be borne in mind that a client regime that treats its patron this way is capable of far worse against its own citizens. Kim Dae Jung waits, in imposed isolation, to see what his face will be. The physical isolation can be qualified, even negated, by acts of solidarity and concern which will have to be sustained in spite of, and without, the contemptible Ambassador Walker and those who insulted the Korean people by appointing him.

THE PEOPLE'S KOREA Published every Saturday by the Choson Sinbo Company For subscription or further details, please write to the Editorial Department, 5, Tsukudo-Hachiman-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162 Japan Tel. 03-260-5881 Anybody is free to reproduce or quote any stories or articles in The People's Korea.